Seizure of Gold Other Valuables in Gujarat

974. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of seizures ol gold and other valuables, itemwise, during the last one year in Gujarat during raids by Customs and Excise Departments offi. 'Cials;

(b) what is the estimated value of these seizures, itemwise;

(c) what is the number of cases in whKR the seizures are due to the informers/officers of Custom's and Excise Departments;

(d) what is the amount of reward given to each informer/officer in accordance with the rules; and

(e) what is the number of cases in which the officers of Customs Department have represented to Government for inadequate reward and what steps are being taken to examine their cases in accordance Tvith the rules?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG-*VUAY* SINGH): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

CM Raids conducted on the Premises of Development Commissioners, iron and Steel

975. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA; Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation has conducted raids at the office/residential premises of Development Commissioners, Iron and *Steel,* Delhi and Bombay recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of complaints of harassment of traders by these officers have been received during the last one year; and

(c) what steps are being taken against such officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TUB MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL); (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation conducted simultaneous searches of the office as well as residential premises of Regional Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel, New Delhi, in August, 1990.

There is no report of any raid at the office/residence of the Regional Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, Bombay.

(b) Some complaints have been received in this Department concerning the Regional Development Commissioners. The complaints have not been substantiated Several of them are pseudonymous complaints.

(c) CBI has registered a regular case against the Regional Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel, New Delhi foi possession of assets disproportionate to the known sources of his income.

Increase in *Excise* Duty on Cement, Steel and Cigarettes

976. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to increase the excise duty on cement, steel and cigarettes in order to mobilise more funds;

(b) if so^ what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what has been the percentage of increase in the excise and other duties on the above commodities during the last three years and to what extent Govern ment has collected excise duties from the above items, jtem-whe?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG-VIJAY SINGH): (a) There is no proposal with the Government at present to increase excise duty on cement, steel and cigarettes.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) The figures of excise duty collected on cement, steel, cigarettes and the percentage increase of the duty so collected, during the last three years is in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Excise duties collected and the percentage increase of the duty so collected on cement, cigarettes and Iron & Steel during last three years

Description	Excise duties collected 1987-88 (Rs. in crores)	Excise duties collected 1988-89 (Rs. in crores)	%age increase in duty in 1988-89 over 1987-88	Excise duty collected 1989-90 (Rs. in crores)	% age increase in duty in 1989-90 over 1988-89
Cement.	869. 84	898. 27	3. 26%	951. 35	5. 90%
Cigarette.. Iron	. 1470. 76	1599. 12	8. 72%	1924. 82	20. 36%
& Steel	630. 74	829. 60	31. 52%	1069. 51	28. 91%

Regulation of Lease/Vacation of Hired Premises on (he Guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India

977. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that lease/vacation of premises hired by the nationalised banks are regulated in accordance with the guidelines iissued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bank of India is not following these guidelines in Bombay; and

(c) if so, what are the details of cases, where owners have requested to increase the rent of premises in Bombay in accordance with the guidelines of the RBI and in how many cases the settlement has been made by the Bank of India in Bombay alongwith the details of increase in rent during the last 3 years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DE PUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIG-VUAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Acquisition of premises on lease/rental basis and other related aspects such as enhancement of rent, vacation of premises, renewal of lease etc., are matters of day to day operations of the bank's and decisions in this regard are taken by banks themselves on commercial considerations. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued in 1983 broad guidelines to all public sector banks regarding acquisition of premises on lease/ rental basis. These guidelines are meant for internal use of the banks and *inter alia* provide for evolving of a proper system for examining proposals for securing premises, the quantum of loans that could be grants to landlords as advanced, location of premises, period of lease, etc.

Bank of India has reported that it has also been following the guidelines of Reserve Bank of India in the matter. Details of premises in Bombay where increase in rent has been considered during the last 3 years by Bank of India are given in the annexed Statement.